

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

BRADY, Robert A. (Democrat)
Representative, 1st District, Pennsylvania
Elected 19May98 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - 7 April 1945

Home: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Marital Status: Married (Debra) - 2 children

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: St. Thomas More High School

Military: None

Profession: Insurance and real estate agent; Union Legislative Representative

Political: 34th Ward Democratic exec committeeman, 1967 - present; 34th Ward Leader, 1981 - present; Democratic candidate for Philadelphia City Council, 1983; Philadelphia Exec Cmte Chairman, 1986 - present. Ran in special election in May98 for the seat of Rep Thomas M. Foglietta (D), who resigned in Nov97 to be Ambassador to Italy. Defeated William Harrison (R) with 73% of vote. Reelected in 2000 with 84% of the vote and in 2002 with 86%.

Rep Brady is a liberal. A former carpenter without a college degree, he is not a typical polished politician. Has a union man's pride and a knack for saying what he means, regardless of how it sounds. Before his successful House race, had run only once for public office, losing badly in 1983 campaign for Philadelphia City Council.

In the 106th Congress, sharply criticized his colleagues for the message of division that he said Congress was sending US military personnel deployed in the operations in and over Yugoslavia. Signed additional views in the HASC Report on the FY00 DoD Auth expressing concern regarding a provision in section 1006 which prohibits the use of funds in FY00 for the purpose of conducting combat or peacekeeping operations in Yugoslavia. Believed it sent a wrong message to Slobodan Milosevic and to US forces engaged in combat operations. In other opposing views, expressed regret that the HASC failed to follow the recommendation of the Military Personnel Subc to repeal the statutory prohibition on abortions in overseas military hospitals and restore the law to what it was for many years. Referring to \$1.4 billion in the FY 00 DoD Appns and Milcon bills which would go to his district, said he was pleased that his efforts to direct increased defense and military construction to his district have been successful. Opposed resuming live ammunition weapons training on Vieques.

In the 107th Congress, commented on the September 11 terrorist attacks; said the police, fire and rescue workers, and the average person trying to help showed the world what America is made of. "They showed that our values will survive any attack. The murderers behind this will also find out what Americans are made of." Signed additional views to the FY 03 DoD Authorization bill relative to the Utah Test and Training Range and nuclear policy. Supported pay comparability for pay raises given to military personnel and civilian Federal employees. Said any US action taken in Iraq must "ultimately make us safer - and not contribute to a more unstable Middle East."

Additional: District includes former Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and wharf areas south of Philadelphia.

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Tactical Air & Land Forces; Readiness

SMALL BUSINESS

HOUSE ADMINISTRATION